

Chapter 8.20

RABIES CONTROL

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8.20.010 Dog, cat and ferret rabies vaccination requirements.

A. The owner or person having charge, care, custody, and control of a ferret, cat or dog four months of age or older shall have such animal vaccinated against rabies and shall thereafter ensure that said animal is re-vaccinated as often as is required to maintain the animal in a current rabies vaccination status. Any person permitting any animal to habitually be on or remain, or be lodged or fed within such person's house, yard or premises shall be responsible for the vaccinations of the animal. Unvaccinated ferrets, dogs or cats over four months of age acquired by the owner or moved into the jurisdiction must be vaccinated within thirty days of acquisition or arrival. Every dog, cat and ferret shall have a current rabies vaccination with a rabies vaccine approved by the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

B. Veterinarians, cattery and kennel operators shall be responsible for determining that dogs, cats and ferrets are currently vaccinated for rabies prior to accepting the animal, from their owners or caretakers, for temporary housing on their premises.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a veterinarian providing emergency medical care to a sick or injured animal.

8.20.020 Rabies vaccination-When valid.

A. Animals that have had a valid vaccination for rabies will not be considered to have a current vaccine until 30 days following the first vaccination and will be considered unvaccinated the day following the expiration of the last documented valid vaccination.

B. For the purpose of management of bite cases, an owner may, within the six months of expiration of the last vaccine, submit proof of protection against rabies. Such proof shall be in the form of a written statement from a veterinarian based upon a blood titer paid for by the owner, drawn after the bite and prior to, or within 10 days of, any re-vaccination.

8.20.030 Rabies vaccination— Veterinarian duties— Certification and tags.

A. It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, when vaccinating any animal for rabies, to complete a certificate of rabies vaccination, in duplicate, which includes the following information:

1. Owner's name and address;
2. Description of the animal (breed, sex, markings, age, name);
3. Date of vaccination;
4. Vaccination expiration date;
5. Rabies vaccination tag number;
6. Type of rabies vaccine administered; and
7. Manufacturer's serial number of vaccine.

B. A copy of the certificate shall be distributed to the owner and the original retained by the issuing veterinarian. The veterinarian and the owner shall retain their

copies of the certificate for the interval between vaccinations specified in this chapter.

C. Additionally, a metal or durable plastic rabies vaccination tag, serially numbered, may be securely attached to the collar or harness of the animal. An animal discovered in public view and not wearing a rabies tag, or current license tag, shall be deemed to be unvaccinated and may be impounded or seized in accordance with law and dealt with pursuant to this title.

8.20.040 Impoundment of animals without valid vaccination tags.

A. Any vaccinated animal impounded because of a lack of a rabies vaccination tag may be reclaimed by its owner upon the owner furnishing a valid rabies certificate including the animal's description and payment of all fees attributable to said animal's apprehension and impoundment accrued up to the date of release.

B. Any unvaccinated animal may be reclaimed by its owner prior to disposal of said animal under the procedures set forth hereafter in section 8.28.040 of this title by payment of all fees attributable to said animal's apprehension and impoundment and by the owner posting a rabies deposit as specified in the attached fee schedule. Said deposit may be recovered by owner upon showing proof of rabies vaccination within seventy-two hours of release.

C. Any animal not reclaimed prior to the period specified in section 8.28.050 of this title shall be disposed of pursuant to that section.

8.20.050 Rabid animal reports.

A. Any person having knowledge of the presence or whereabouts of an animal known to have been exposed to or reasonably suspected of having rabies and any person having knowledge of an animal or person bitten by a wild or domestic mammal or bat shall report such knowledge and all pertinent

information available to the director and the health department. Any person having custody of such animal shall confine the animal pending direction from the director or the health department.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person having knowledge of the presence or whereabouts of an animal known to have been exposed to, or reasonably suspected of having, rabies; or of an animal or person bitten by such an animal; to harbor, protect, or otherwise interfere with the apprehension or identification of said animal or persons by willfully withholding such knowledge from an animal control officer or any other officer of the city, the division, the health department or the Utah State Department of Health.

C. It shall be a violation of this title for an owner, or other person having the care, custody and control of an animal known, suspected, or deemed to have been exposed to rabies as set forth above in this section to fail to surrender said animal immediately upon demand by any animal control officer or officer of the city, the division, the health department or the Utah State Department of Health.

8.20.060 Animals exposed to rabies.

Any animal potentially exposed to rabies virus by a wild or domestic mammal or a bat shall be regarded as having been exposed to rabies pending successful completion of testing and/or quarantine of the biting animal.

A. Unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets exposed to a rabid animal shall be euthanized immediately. If the owner is unwilling to have this done, the animal shall be placed in quarantine for up to six months in a location agreeable to the director and monitored by a veterinarian, at the owner's expense, and vaccinated one month before being released.

B. Dogs, cats, and ferrets that are currently vaccinated shall be revaccinated immediately, kept under the owner's control and observed for 45 days.

C. Livestock shall be handled as per the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

8.20.070 Management of animals that bite humans.

A. An apparently healthy dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person shall be quarantined and the following provisions shall apply:

1. The animal shall be observed for a period of not less than ten days by the division and/or the health department, and the owner of the animal shall be responsible for the cost of such quarantine.

2. The normal place for such quarantine shall be the division's animal shelter; however, other arrangements suitable to the director may be made for the period of observation specified herein upon the condition that the biting animal had a current rabies vaccination at the time the bite is inflicted.

3. A person having custody of an animal under quarantine at a place other than the division's animal shelter shall immediately notify the director and the division if the animal shows any signs of sickness or abnormal behavior, or if the animal escapes from quarantine.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person who has custody of a quarantined animal to fail or refuse to allow an officer of the city, the division, the health department or a veterinarian designated by them, to make an inspection or examination of the animal during, and/or at the end of the period of quarantine.

5. If the quarantined animal dies within ten days from the date of the bite for which the animal was quarantined, the person having custody of said animal shall immediately notify the director and the division of such fact and immediately deliver the animal to that person's veterinarian or the division for the removal and delivery of the head of said animal to a laboratory specified

by the Utah State Department of Health for examination for rabies.

6. At the end of the quarantine period, the director or designee shall examine the quarantined animal and if no sign of rabies is present in the animal, the animal may be released to its owner. Stray animals shall be disposed of as provided below in section 8.28.050.

7. If, during the quarantine, the animal exhibits symptoms of rabies, it shall be immediately destroyed and tested.

8. Any stray or unwanted dog, cat or ferret that bites a person may be euthanized immediately and submitted for rabies examination, if an immediate examination is determined necessary by the director or the health department.

B. Animals other than dogs, cats, or ferrets that might have exposed a person to rabies shall be reported immediately to the director and the health department. Case management will be a collaborative effort between the health department and the division.

C. If any animal bites or attacks a person or another animal two or more times in a 12 month period, or if the director deems the bite or attack to be vicious by virtue of the severity of the bite, such animal may be immediately impounded, pending legal action, at the scene by the division without court order and held at the owner's expense.

D. The director may seek a court order as provided in section 8.40.010 for the destruction of an animal as he deems necessary.

8.20.080 Management of animals that bite other animals.

A. An apparently healthy dog, cat, or ferret that bites another animal shall be quarantined and the following provisions shall apply:

1. The animal shall be observed for a period of not less than ten days by the division

and/or the health department, and the owner of the animal shall be responsible for the cost of such quarantine.

2. The normal place for such quarantine shall be the division's animal shelter; however, other arrangements suitable to the director may be made for the period of observation specified herein upon the condition that the biting animal had a current rabies vaccination at the time the bite is inflicted.

3. A person having custody of an animal under quarantine at a place other than the division's animal shelter shall immediately notify the director and the division if the animal shows any signs of sickness or abnormal behavior, or if the animal escapes from quarantine.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person who has custody of a quarantined animal to fail or refuse to allow an officer of the city, the division, the health department or a veterinarian designated by them, to make an inspection or examination of the animal during, and/or at the end of the period of quarantine.

5. If the quarantined animal dies within ten days from the date of the bite for which the animal was quarantined, the person having custody of said animal shall immediately notify the director and the division of such fact and immediately deliver the animal to that person's veterinarian or the division for the removal and delivery of the head of said animal to a laboratory specified by the Utah State Department of Health for examination for rabies.

6. At the end of the quarantine period, the director or designee shall examine the quarantined animal and if no sign of rabies is present in the animal, the animal may be released to its owner. Stray animals shall be disposed of as provided below in section 8.28.050.

7. If, during the quarantine, the animal exhibits symptoms of rabies, it shall be immediately destroyed and tested.

8. Any stray or unwanted dog, cat or ferret that bites another animal may be euthanized immediately and submitted for rabies examination, if an immediate examination is determined necessary by the director or the health department.